Mr. Ken Brooten
Carter and Dunham
4131 N.W. 13th St.
Gainesville, Fla. 32601

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
4/10/77

Dear Ken,

We agree that whatever this committee now may do its final product is discredited.

What it has done to date is tragic. In all its official representations and in all its many staged leaks it has slected their least credible from the wildest of the irresponsibles and then claimed it as its own original work. In all of these dubious adventures I know of only two that can have significance and of course neither was original with it.

This was inevitable under any circumstances unless the corpus delecti was established immediately. With the self-promoting, uninformed and arrogant Sprague it was more certain. Without the restriants imposed by the actual and available evidence there is no limit to conjectures and the titillation of the anxious and also uninformed Members. All of whom, from what I've read, have been misled.

One of the real problems is that the nuts and self-seekers flooded in on the Members quite early and saw to it that there would be no consultation with the few who had done real work and could give dependable evaluations and opinions. One results is that from the outset the Members did not have dependable information. If and when it becomes necessary the executive agencies will be using this stuff, I fear effectively. Gonzalez is well off personally to be out of it. Any attack on him is now irrelevant.

There will still be disinformation, especially from Mark Lane. I know he was close to Gonzalez' office, simultaneously with Fauntroy in his pocket. As is inevitable with thievery and commercialization of it Lane's improvisations on what he stole of the work of others in Memphis is wrong and leads wrong ways. He exploited this into a six-figure deal beginning with a Prentice-Hall hardback book due now. I have seen the proofs and it is pretty terrible stuff. The FBI will be able to take it apart on the Hill with ease, as I can, but when the publisher has all this money to recover there will be a big ad and promotional drive and the public mind will be ripped off again.

I remember your personal embarrassment when one of the transcripts I loaned the committee with the specific understanding it would not be given to Lane and others could not be found. While these transcripts are public domain my copies are not, they have material added and the only place they were available was miles away and had to be used there. I am confident these were made available to Lane. Aside fromwhat he stole and sought to duplicate and pretend was his own work there is nothing else relevant in the book. There is virtually nothing on the crime itself in the book.

I am wondering if in your search for these transcripts, especially the missing one, and from your personal embarrassment, you made an inquiry that either told you or suggested to you what had happened. Before this is over that may be important to know. My belief is that directly or indirectly it was Sprague. I'm sure that for a while he and Lane had a cozy relationship - until Lane claimed that Sprague owed his job to him. If you can tell me anything about this I'd appreciate it. When you see what Lane did to Lesar you will understand it better. Especially if Lane had access to all these transcripts. The transcripts establish the exact opposite of what the wretch has to do to live with himself. He has made other threats against Jim.

I can afford to travel only when there is an appearance to pay the costs. If I ever get to speak near you I'd like to be able to tell you some of what I indicated 10/20 when you were present and Sprague was bowing me and what I indicated that November Sunday when you phoned about the spectro. Best wishes,